



**Southend University
Hospital**
NHS Foundation Trust

Patient Information Service

Infection prevention and control team

Isolation information for patients, relatives and carers

The aim of this leaflet is to give you an understanding of what is meant by isolation or barrier nursing. It is not uncommon for isolation nursing to be used in hospital. This means that you will be nursed in a single room. If a single room is not available you will be nursed in the main bay until a single room becomes available. The infection prevention and control team will assist the staff on your ward in assessing where you will be nursed. If you require information regarding specific infections, ask the ward staff and they will arrange for a member of the infection prevention and control team to come and visit to discuss your case with you.

Why do we isolate some patients?

There are two main reasons:

1. To prevent cross infection
2. To protect you from infection if you have a weak immune system and therefore are more susceptible to infection.

What protective clothing will staff wear?

Staff will wear disposable gloves and apron when caring for you in order to reduce the risk of cross infection. Visitors only need to wear disposable gloves and aprons if they taking part in your care.

Will this affect my treatment?

No it will not.

It is important that all staff that are caring for you wash their hands/use hand sanitizer before entering and when leaving your room. Other departments you may need to visit will be made aware of the need for gloves/aprons and strict hand hygiene measures.

Can I leave my room?

This depends on how the infection is spread. Discuss this with the nurse in charge of your care because in some circumstances you may be allowed to leave your room, for example for physiotherapy.

Can I have visitors?

All visitors must use the hand sanitizer when entering and when leaving the wards or your room.

For some specific infections, depending on how they spread, some visitors will be advised not to visit. For example if you have chicken pox or shingles, pregnant women (and those who have not had these infections) need to take advice from the infection prevention control nurse.

In general it is not advisable for babies or visitors who are unwell themselves to visit, as they may be more susceptible to infection.

How long will I need to receive isolation/barrier nursing?

This will depend on the nature of the infection that you have. The infection prevention and control nurse will advise the ward staff.

Where can I get further advice?

Understanding infection can be complicated and a worry to us all. This leaflet might not cover all of the questions that you may have. If this is the case then you can get further advice and information by:

- Asking the ward manager/nurse in charge
- Asking to speak with one of the infection prevention and control team.



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If this leaflet does not answer all of your questions, or if you have any other concerns please contact the infection prevention control team direct on: **01702 435555 ext 6639, 6919, 6986.**

www.southend.nhs.uk

For a translated, large print or audio tape version of this document please contact:

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